

1 63. (New) The product of Claim 41 wherein the batting with adhesive
2 is mass-produced.

1 64. (New) The product of Claim 41 further comprising instructions for
2 application of heat when attaching the cover to the batting.

1 65. (New) The product of Claim 41 wherein the batting is a thick
2 material.

1 66. (New) The product of Claim 41 wherein the batting comprises at
2 least one of cotton or polyester.

REMARKS

This Reply and Amendment is intended to be completely responsive to the non-final Office Action dated March 15, 2002.

Claims

Claims 1-14 have previously been cancelled. Claim 15 is objected to, and Claims 15-20 stand rejected. On entry of this Reply and Amendment, Claims 15-20 will be cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits, and new Claims 21-66 will be added to present claims of varying scope.¹ Accordingly, Claims 21-66 will be pending in this Application.

No new matter has been added.

¹ The Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the Continuation Application including new Claims 21-107 filed by the Applicants on July 15, 2002, claiming priority to the present Divisional Application and the Parent Application (now U.S. Patent No. 6,261,397).

Claim Objections

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to independent Claim 15 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(e) for improper Jepson claim format.

Independent Claim 15 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this objection under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(e).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner provided:

Claim 15 is indefinite because use of the phrase "configured for having connecting means". It is not understood if the material used to provide the quilt batting member requires some specific spatial arrangement in order to enable a connecting means to pass through the covers and batting member, or what "configuration" needs to occur to make the batt able to receive the connecting means.

Independent Claim 15 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection to independent Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

On Page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 15-17 and 19-20 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,501,368 ("Schabert et al.") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Examiner stated that:

[Schabert et al.] is directed to an iron-on fabric composed of a fleece material having a resin deposited on one side thereof and is heat activated (abstract). The reference further discloses another embodiment that provides a fleece material with adhesive on both sides and teaches the application of inserting the adhesive coated fleece material between two layers of cloth, which can then be pressed together with a hot iron (column 1, 3rd paragraph, line 38-41).

Claims 15-20 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

On Page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 15-17 and 19-20 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,992,149 ("Drelich") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Examiner stated that:

[Drelich] is directed to heat-sealable sheet materials (title), more specifically a self-heat-sealable material. A synthetic polymeric thermoplastic substance deposited on the textile material enables the self-heat-sealable properties disclosed (abstract). The heat-sealable sheet material having an activatable thermo-adhesive substance deposited thereon may include woven and non-woven fabrics, felts, and papers (column 1, paragraph 2). The reference further teaches that the activated adhesive sheet material may be more or less permanently adhered to themselves in folds or to other materials in a laminated structure (column 1, paragraph 2). Figure 4 (column 3, line 18-20 and Page 5) describes another embodiment of the invention having a linear polyolefin adhered to both sides of a non-woven fabric sheet material. Additionally, the patent further discloses how the sheet material may be faced on both sides with thermoplastic granules and adhered to other sheet materials by simply being pressed with a heated iron (column 4 line 63-74).

Claims 15-20 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

On Page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 15-17 and 19 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,543,214 ("Groshens et al.") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Examiner stated that:

[Groshens et al.] is directed to a thermo-adhesive product formed from a backing fabric with a thermo-adhesive layer deposited on its surface (abstract). The thermo-adhesive layer is formed of polymers which are non-tacky at ambient temperatures and become tacky and plastic at an elevated temperature (abstract). Suitable fabrics which can be used as fusible interlinings may be woven, knitted, or non-woven fabrics made of natural, synthetic, or metallic materials (column 1, line 31-35). The reference also teaches coating both sides of a backing fabric with adhesive and inserting

the coated textile between other materials (column 4 lines 24-32).

Claims 15-20 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).